

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

RECEIVED

MAR 1 4 2003

Group Art Unit:1722

Serial No.: 09/557,176

Filed: April 21, 2000

TC 1700

Examiner: NGUYEN, Thukhanh T.

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 6524

For:

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR FORMING VESSEL BODY AND

THUS FORMED VESSEL BODY

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: March 11, 2003

Sir:

Applicants hereby appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the decision dated **September 11, 2002** of the Primary Examiner.

The item(s) checked below are appropriate:

- 1. A petition for a three month extension of time to respond to the Final Rejection was filed on March 3, 2003.
- 2. A timely response to the Final Rejection has been filed, as provided in 37 C.F.R. 1.113.
- 3. Fee Small Entity \$160.00

XX Enclosed

____ Not required (fee paid in prior appeal)

Charge to Deposit Account No. 01-2340

In the event this Notice of Appeal is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this Notice.

03/12/2003 NMOHANN1 00000013 09557176

01 FC:2401

160.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

William G. Kratz, Jr. Attorney for Applicant Reg. No. 22,631

WGK/nrp

Atty. Docket No. **000549** Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 659-2930

23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE